

[13 December, 2006]

RAJYA SABHA

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government has allocated funds for rehabilitation of children withdrawn from hazardous occupations/processes due to the enforcement of Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986. The Government is implementing schemes for rehabilitation of such children, namely, National Child Labour Project (NCLP) Scheme for which an allocation of 602 crores has been made in the 10th Plan, and INDUS Project a joint project of US Department of Labour and Government of India for which an allocation of Rs 65 crores has been made as Government of India's share in the 10th Plan.

(c) Does not arise.

Combining Jatropha cultivation with NREGS

2378. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to combine the cultivation of Jatropha with the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATH): (a) and (b) Tree plantation is a permissible activity under NREG Act, 2005. Cultivation of Jatropha may, therefore, be taken up under the existing provisions of the Act.

(c) Does not arise.

Potable water crisis

†2379. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state. ,

(a) whether Government are aware of potable water crisis in the country;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, whether only 76 per cent population has access to potable water, according to a UNO report;

(c) whether Government have formulated a national policy to provide potable water to all in order to save people from water-borne diseases;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) by when all people of the country would be provided potable water by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) and (b) Water is a State subject and as such State Governments are primarily responsible to provide drinking water to the rural habitations. To supplement the efforts of the State Governments in this direction, financial assistance and technical support is rendered by the Central Government to the State Governments through a Centrally Sponsored Scheme namely Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) under Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission. State Governments are, however, competent to plan, sanction, implement and execute rural water supply schemes for the coverage of rural habitations from funds provided under ARWSP.

The following norms are adopted for providing drinking water to rural population in the habitations:

40 lpcd per capita per day (lpcd) of safe drinking water for human beings.

- 30 lpcd additional for cattle in the desert Development Programme Areas.
- One hand-pump or stand post for every 250 persons
- The water source should exist within the habitation/within 1.6 km in the plains and within 100 mtrs. elevation in the hilly areas

As per the Comprehensive Action Plan 1999 and subsequent coverage reported by States/UTs, 97.02% habitations are fully covered, 2.73% are partially covered; the NC habitations are 0.21%.

However, coverage of habitations is a dynamic concept and the reasons for fully covered habitations slipping back into NC/PC may be due to a number of factors like:

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- sources going dry or lowering of the ground water table
- sources becoming quality affected
- systems outliving their lives
- systems working below rates capacity due to poor operation and maintenance
- increase in population resulting into lower per capita availability, emergence of new habitations

The Habitation Survey 2003 data reveals high incidence of slippage The State Governments have been asked for taking coordinated approach for sustainability of water supply sources and systems

(c) and (d) A community based National Rural Drinking Water Quality Monitoring and Surveillance Programme has been launched in the country to tackle chemical contamination, which aims at testing various parameters for all drinking water sources by the grassroot level works in each Panchayat by simple-to-use field test kits One Field test kit would be provided to each Gram Panchayat in the country for this purpose The positively tested samples would then be tested at the District/State level laboratories However, with effect from 1st April. 2006, it has been decided to retain upto 20% of ARWSP funds to mitigate water quality problems on focused manner

(e) Drinking Water Supply is one of the six components of Bharat Nirman • which has been conceived as a plan to be implemented in four years, from 2005-06 to 2008-09 for building rural infrastructure The objective of the said component is to cover 55067 uncovered habitations as well as to address problem of slipped back and quality affected habitations

Role of village Panchayats in NREGP

2380. SHRI SUDARSHAN AKARAPU: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state

(a) whether Government have any proposal under their consideration to involve/and to enhance the role of village Panchayats in the identification of beneficiaries and implementation of National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme;